

passing cutting-edge legislation which increased the state minimum wage for millions of workers, Monica has dedicated her life's work to protecting voter rights, mobilizing some of the largest civil rights protests in Florida's history, reducing class sizes in Florida's schools, advocating for immigrants' rights, implementing safe staffing levels in Florida's nursing homes and led the charge to institute the state's first early voting process so working people can make their votes count.

Her commitment to building new leaders and developing a legacy of partnership and collaboration in Florida has helped build an influential grassroots political base. She was the first labor leader to serve as a commissioner on Florida's Commission for Women and was named the Top 40 Most Powerful Democrats by Politics Magazine in 2009.

Ms. Russo has served on the South Florida Workforce Investment Board, Florida International University's Research Institute for Social and Economic Policy and has worked closely with me as a trusted and valued advisor to my Healthcare Working Group.

The daughter of Lincoln University professors, Monica grew up in rural Pennsylvania and speaks English, Spanish, Portuguese, French and Haitian Kreyol. She graduated magna cum laude from Georgetown University and lives in Miami with her daughter, Giovanna.

Monica Russo's commitment to our nation's working families is exemplary, and I am proud to call her my sister and dear and treasured friend. I will miss her guidance and wisdom, but our loss is her family's gain. I wish her a hearty congratulations on her retirement and am grateful for her invaluable work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2020

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today regarding missed votes due to a death in the family. Had I been present for roll call vote number 225, On Agreeing to the Rep. LEVIN of Michigan Part B Amendment No. 9 for the National Apprenticeship Act of 2020, I would have voted "nay." Had I been present for roll call vote number 226, On Agreeing to the Rep. SMUCKER of Pennsylvania Part B Amendment No. 15 for the National Apprenticeship Act of 2020, I would have voted "yea." Had I been present for roll call vote No. 227, On Passage of the bill National Apprenticeship Act of 2020, and for other purposes, I would have voted "nay."

WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS FOR FRANCOIS GENARD AND CHRISTINE SASTRI

HON. TJ COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2020

Mr. COX of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Mr. Francois Genard and Ms. Christine Sastri on their upcoming wedding in September of 2021. I

would not be here today as a Member of Congress but for Francois' efforts, talent and capabilities. I am honored to call him a friend and colleague. Together with Chrissy, they serve as an example of the character, capability and professionalism that serves our nation well.

As the Chief of Staff, Francois has shown great skill in leading our team to best serve the interests of the Central Valley. His tireless work serving all our communities is invaluable, and his strong leadership and foresight should be emulated by all. Francois' efforts have turned our office into a family, and our team is grateful for all he has done.

I offer my warmest congratulations and best wishes to Francois and Chrissy as they begin this new chapter in their lives. We all join their family and friends in celebrating this wonderful milestone. I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in celebrating this couple as they continue to build a happy, healthy life together.

HONORING MAYOR FREDERICK LEDESMA

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2020

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor retiring Mayor of Soledad, Frederick "Fred" Ledesma, for his outstanding career in public service and his commitment to the people of the central coast of California. His professional accomplishments and leadership in the community over the span of two decades have profoundly touched the lives of many, and I congratulate him on his retirement.

Fred has been a lifelong resident of the City of Soledad. Following in the footsteps of his father, Frank Ledesma, Fred served on the Soledad City Council from 1990 to 2000. He then held the position of Mayor of the City of Soledad from 1992 to 1994 prior to returning to the office in 2010. During his time serving the City of Soledad, Fred has been heavily involved in a number of notable projects, including the Soledad Community Center, Vosti, Gallardo and Aaroe Park improvements, the Soledad Visitor's Center, the pending multi-theater cinema, the Soledad Hartnell Campus and Orchard Lane Park, and the recent creation of the Veterans Day Banner Program. Additionally, Fred has been a diligent voice for farmworker rights as well as a strong advocate for the passage of Measures Y and S, which will benefit the City and its residents for many years to come.

In addition to serving on numerous local and regional boards, including the City Parks & Recreation Committee, the Chair of the Association of California Cities Allied with Public Safety, the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District, and the Monterey County Mayors Association, Fred has also been a friend to many in his community. He is well known by all for his outgoing demeanor, sense of humor, and respect for all. He has truly demonstrated a deep connection and commitment to his community, which has been felt by everyone who has had the pleasure of meeting him.

As he begins his retirement, I have no doubt that Fred will continue to serve his community.

We on the Central Coast are grateful for his lifetime of service to the City of Soledad and 20 years as a public official. Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring and congratulating Mayor Frederick Ledesma.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MS. SHEILA PAUL

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2020

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Ms. Sheila Paul. Sheila loved three things in her life: God, her family, and serving others. As a devoted member of the Usher and Diaconess teams for over 40 years, it is clear that Sheila's incredibly strong and caring soul made her a central part of her community. We have lost a great leader, a tremendous mother, and a dear friend.

Sheila dedicated her life to God and to others. She radiated a vibrant, tenacious spirit that made it known she was a child of God, drove her to serve, and that infected others. Her spirituality was present in everything she did and anyone that met her knew she was grounded in her faith. Her courage and determination was evident when she journeyed from Saint Louis du Nord, Haiti to Freeport, Bahamas and finally to the United States. She embodied the immigrant spirit and the American dream. Sheila carried her successful business to Fort Lauderdale, and expanded it into a thriving storefront and ventured into real estate, forever embedding her legacy in the community.

Sheila forged strong connections with everyone she met and exemplified what it means to be a child of Christ through her generosity and kindness. She would feed anyone who came to her house and extended her hand to anyone in need. She always went above and beyond to improve the lives of those around her.

To Sheila, family was of the upmost importance. She was the proud wife of the late Alberto Michael Joseph and the proud mother of eight biological children: Alberta, Duval, Rosianne, Linda, Ancelot (AJ), Guillene, Bernadette, and Carole. As an immigrant she faced many hardships and made great sacrifices for her children, and strove to improve the circumstances of all, so they may benefit from an education, an opportunity she valued immensely. In addition to her immediate family, she was the adopted mother to hundreds of children which she considered her own. Sheila was a caring and selfless mother to all who had the privilege to know her. She was a true trailblazer, a steady leader and caregiver, and lived her life the way we should all strive to, with an abundance of love.

Madam Speaker, Ms. Sheila Paul has indeed left an indelible mark on her loved ones and her community, and it will be present for future generations to come. She will be dearly missed.

IN HONOR OF MRS. GRACE VIRGINIA RICHARDSON HUMPHREY CUTTS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2020

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an inspiring woman, respected community leader, and a transgenerational pillar in Dawson, Georgia—Mrs. Grace Virginia Richardson Humphrey Cutts. Sadly, Mrs. Cutts passed away on Tuesday, November 17, 2020, at the remarkable age of 108. But she leaves behind a legacy of impact upon countless people whose lives she touched. Her funeral service was held on Tuesday, December 1, 2020, at 11 am at the Adoration Temperance Obedience Charity (ATOC) African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in Dawson, Georgia.

Mrs. Grace Virginia Richardson Humphrey Cutts was born on March 2, 1912, in Dawson, Georgia, to the union of Walter Revena Richardson and Clara Louise Cochran Richardson.

Mrs. Cutts was a person who overcame many obstacles to make a difference in the lives of others. She was raised in a time during which African Americans were limited in their opportunities to better themselves. But, Mrs. Cutts was undeterred and set out on a path to overcome all obstacles that would prevent her from carrying out God's calling upon her life.

She graduated from Allen Normal and Industrial High School and enrolled in Georgia Normal and Agricultural College—now Albany State University, graduating in 1949.

She served as a teacher for 45 years, using her gifts to impact the lives of thousands of young people who went on to achieve in no small part because of her influence. Even after she retired, she continued to make a difference in the lives of young people through tutoring and mentoring.

The course and the direction of her life were set by the name she was given at birth—Grace. She was proud of her character and used that character to exhibit grace and compassion to all with whom she came in contact. She kept God as the center of her life and the captain of her ship. She was a member of the ATOC AME Church for an astonishing 102 years. Besides being the Mother of the Church, she served during various times as the church pianist, secretary, and Stewardess.

In addition to being dedicated to her church and her community, she was a wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. Her family was always supportive and through the years, allowed her to give her time and treasure to God and her community. She was married to the late Calvin Homer Humphrey and the late Sammie Lee Cutts; was the loving mother to the late Calvin Walter Humphrey; and she was a doting grandmother and great grandmother.

Former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm once said that "If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair." We are so thankful that Mrs. Grace Cutts always brought a folding chair and used her life's work to make a difference. 1 Peter 4:10 says, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." Mrs. Cutts

exemplified that grace because of her faith in God and used God's grace to serve others in a mighty way. To God Be The Glory for the amazing and meaningful life of Mrs. Grace Virginia Richardson Humphrey Cutts.

Madam Speaker, my wife, Vivian and I, along with the more than 730,000 people of the Second Congressional District, and all those who mourn her loss, salute Mrs. Grace Virginia Richardson Humphrey Cutts for her lifetime of service to humankind. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in extending our deepest condolences to Mrs. Cutts' family during this difficult time of bereavement. We pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

VICTORVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEMBER JIM COX RETIRES

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2020

Mr. COOK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the retirement of Jim Cox from the Victorville City Council.

Jim was first named Victorville City Manager in 1969, and held that position until 2000. He returned after a brief departure to serve as City Manager again from 2009 to 2012. During his time as City Manager, he won a number of accolades and was appointed to several regional boards and commissions, highlighting the expertise he displayed as he worked on behalf of Victorville residents. In 2012, Jim was elected to the Victorville City Council, where he served two terms.

Jim's time on the council has been marked by successes in Victorville, including the La Mesa/Nisqualli Bridge and interchange project. He has governed with decency and decorum, and has always place an emphasis on community service. His work with Rotary International, as well as his ex-officio membership of the Victor Valley Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, has impacted his community just as deeply as his government service. I offer my sincere congratulations to Jim on a well deserved retirement, and wish him the best as he moves to the next chapter of his life.

APPRECIATING CINDY SMITH

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I would like to take the time to recognize Cindy Smith for her dedicated work to the Lexington District One Board of Trustees. She is an important member of our community as she has worked to improve our children's education.

DISTRICT HONORS 20-YEAR BOARD MEMBER

On Tuesday, Oct. 20, the Lexington District One Board of Trustees honored board chair Cynthia "Cindy" S. Smith who decided to retire following 20 consecutive years of devoted service to the district.

She became involved in Lexington District One while serving as president of the Lexington Elementary School PTA. After serving in the PTA and her children's School Improvement Council, she decided to run for the Board of Trustees in 2000 and was elected.

Smith served as secretary, vice chair and chair throughout her 20 years of service.

As one of the fastest-growing school districts in the state, ranking sixth in total enrollment, Smith is proud of the excellent academic reputation the district established.

During her tenure on the board, the district experienced rapid growth, and drew accolades and national recognition for high academic improvement and innovative programs.

An active community member, Smith chaired the South Carolina Insurance Trust Board of Directors, the Lexington District One Educational Foundation, the South Carolina School Boards Association and the Lexington Woman's Club and served on the Executive Board of the Friends of the Lexington County Library and the Board of Directors for the South Carolina School Improvement Council.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ELAINE RASBERRY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2020

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, Elaine Rasberry was born on January 31, 1956 in Chicago, IL to the union of Christine Davis and Leroy Williams, both of whom preceded her in death. She was also preceded in death by her brother Calvin Davis and granddaughter Jurzee Hopson.

Elaine accepted the Lord as her personal savior at an early age under the leadership of Pastor Hackline of Chicago, IL. She realized you find God the moment you realize you don't need to seek him. Later she joined Garden of Prayer Missionary Baptist Church, under the leadership of Pastor Johnnie Haynie.

Elaine loved her family and her friends. She was your favorite cousins' favorite cousin. She stayed connected to everyone in her extended family including the Davis, Williams, Houston and Rasberry families. She was known for her famous lemon pies and German chocolate cakes. Her brother Calvin traveled miles for a taste of her butter cookies.

Elaine graduated from Lucy Flower High School in Chicago and received a business certificate from the Murdock Institute. She always had a passion for children, serving as an associate at Mark's Day Care and a teacher's aide at St. Eulalia Elementary school. Most recently, she served as a student monitor for children with special needs at Student First.

Elaine's hobbies included cooking, traveling, watching The Young and the Restless and Tyler Perry movies, eating Red Lobster, posting on Facebook and of course she loved shopping.

She always had a deep affection for helping people, serving as the Vice-President of the Van Buren Block Club where she hosted school supply drives to help poverty-stricken families. One of her biggest honors was meeting and taking a photo with President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama.